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LETTERS

The 1788 New Jersey copper, Maris 67-v described by Edward R. Barnsley in the last issue is an excellent example of the phenomenon known as bifurcation. The two specimens of this coin that are described in his article are not two different types caused by an alteration of the dies but are examples of how the coins themselves can be misinterpreted if one does not fully understand how the unusual feature called bifurcation occurs.

All of these early pieces were struck by dies without the benefit of a retaining collar to stop the flan from spreading during the coining operation. The coins were struck on a man-operated press and the pressure was liable to vary according to the force exerted. Occasionally an extra heavy pressure would cause the flan to spread more than usual.

It will be found that the tooth borders on these spread flans are invariably elongated in a radial direction, and that the serifs of the letters tend to curl upwards, i. e. towards the periphery of the flan. This also occurs to a lesser degree on pieces struck with normal pressure and is due to the fact that the outer part of the planchet spreads more rapidly than the center, especially when there is no collar to retain it.

The impact of the dies on the blank is followed almost simultaneously by an outward movement of the metal with the results that the impression near the edge is carried with it and so becomes slightly elongated or blurred. These letters with curled serifs were, therefore, and unavoidable consequence of striking the coins without a collar, and are not, as is often believed, letters of a special type.

For confirmation of the above, see ENGLISH COPPER, TIN AND BRONZE COINS IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM 1558 - 1958 by C. Wilson Peck, 1960. Also see the UNITED STATES EARLY SILVER DOLLARS FROM 1794 - 1803 by M. H. Bolender and A REGISTER OF HALF DOLLAR DIE VARIETIES AND SUB-VARIETIES by M. L. Beistle for examples of coins struck without a collar which show bifurcation sporadically throughout the life of the dies.

Ken Bressett

Numismatic Editor

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● TALBOT, ALLUM, and LEE - YORK Mule ●

Though the mulings of the obverse of the Talbot, Allum, and Lee cents with English reverses are unquestionably members of the English Condor Token group, they are still collected by the American Colonial specialist because of their connection with the regular Talbot, Allum, and Lee cents of New York of 1794 and 1795.

The purpose of this article is to add a new edge variety to the Fuld No. 7 group, which are the YORK mules. The No. 7 has the edge reading FEAR GOD AND HONOUR THE KING. XX., and the No. 7A has a plain edge. This new variety has the edge reading PAYABLE ON DEMAND, with the balance engrailed, and will be called 7B.

This particular specimen was located over a year ago and no others have been located since. There is no mention of this edge in any previous works either. With this as a reference, the tentative rarity on it will be an R-8, until such time that others can be located and known.

Robert A. Vlack



York Mule 7B



● DR. HALL'S "LATER NOTES" ON CONNECTICUTS ●

The 58 page pamphlet written and published by Thomas Hall, M. D., at Boston in 1892, and entitled "A Descriptive List of the Coppers Issued by Authority for the State of Connecticut for the Year 1787:", although well known to specialists on Early American coins, is an exceedingly rare volume. Not even The Library of Congress owns a copy of this work which was "Privately printed for additions and corrections", according to a statement on the title page. In this numismatically important pamphlet, Dr. Hall describes each die, and lists a table of 199 combinations of the 1787 series with a blank column headed "No. of specimens examined".

Dr. Hall died in 1909 and his own personal copy of the 1892 pamphlet must have been available to Henry Clay Miller when the latter prepared his monumental work, "The State Coinage of Connecticut", published posthumously in 1920 in "The American Journal of Numismatics", Vol. 53, Part 1. For example, Miller wrote, in connection with Rev. V of 1787, "Dr. Hall also includes it in his list, but his record of the number of pieces of each variety found contains no examples of Rev. V except two, both of which he later erased from his list". What has happened to Hall's census of "No. of specimens examined"? Who knows its present whereabouts? The American Numismatic Society would be the logical repository for Hall's manuscripts, but its copy of the 1892 pamphlet contains no annotations, so the missing record referred to must be looked for elsewhere.

It is also evident that Dr. Hall continued to record new die information acquired after 1892. For example, Miller wrote concerning Rev. r(5) of 1787, "This very rare reverse is not found in Hall's printed list. In his later notes he records finding a specimen after twenty years search." Where are these "later notes"? Who owns them today?

After the death of Miller on February 6, 1920, Frederick A. Canfield and Hillyer Ryder prepared a five page "Additions and Corrections" to the former's work wherein they refer to Hall writing about a certain 1788 die. These men changed the legend Miller has given for Rev. R of 1788 by saying, "The legend by Hall is correct: *INDE* *ET* LIB*". How did the good Doctor get into the 1788 literature; where are his memoranda on the 1788 series?

In September, 1946, The American Numismatic Society acquired a microfilm of the 408 page notebook of one Thomas P. Hall. Contained therein in great detail are notes of all sorts, accession records, and everything under the sun concerning his wide collection of Early American coins with one important exception, viz. the Connecticut series. Connecticut is not even mentioned in this notebook.

Dispersal of the Dr. Hall collection of Connecticut is well known to collectors, but whatever happened to his historically valuable manuscripts? There can be no doubt that the same existed at the time of his death, for they are mentioned in the following obituary notice published in "The American Journal of Numismatics", Vol. 43, p. 139:

"The very sudden death, in May (1909) last at his summer home in Chelmsford, Mass., of Dr. Thomas Hall, for many years a member of the Boston Numismatic Society, leaves a vacancy in the ranks of prominent collectors of Americana. Dr. Hall's cabinet was remarkable in many ways; . . . and especially the Connecticut Cents, was remarkable for its completeness; he had in preparation a monograph of some of these, and a portion of it he had privately printed; but we fear that physical infirmity prevented him from bringing it to a conclusion. . . . The disposition of his cabinet has not as yet been discussed by his family, but it is known that Dr. Hall hoped that some at least of its very complete groups might be kept together, and never dispersed."

● NEW VIRGINIA VARIETY ●

At the recent ANA convention I discovered a new Virginia halfpenny variety. Of importance is the fact that both dies are new.

Eric Newman's description of the piece follows:

OBVERSE 13

Middle I of III slightly nearer I on left than I on right.
Period slightly nearer I than R. All letters widely spaced.
Continuation of upright of R of REX would fall entirely on the front of the nose adjacent to the tip. Diameter through point of left leaf of three top leaves would almost touch right side of S. $30\frac{1}{2}$ /64ths of an inch between centers of periods.

REVERSE T

Leaf ends opposite center and right side of upright of I. R should tilt farther to right. Leaf ends close to and opposite right end of left base of A. Third I paralalled to horizontal divider.

Paul Weinstein



● NEW FUGIO REVERSE "KK" ●

Subsequent to the publication of "New and Unlisted Varieties of the Fugio Cent" (in "Empire Topics, No. 4, p. 16) several new dies have been discovered, one of which, reverse J, was described and illustrated in the April, 1961, issue of "Colonial Newsletter". Another of these new combinations is 12-KK, the reverse being so designated because of its close similarity to the Newman reverse K. The chief difference between dies K and KK is in the relationship of the motto WE ARE ONE to the words UNITED STATES incused on the surrounding band. For example in K, the left stroke of A in STATES points to the bottom of O in ONE, while in KK the same stroke points to the center of O.

The striking feature of KK, however, and the one which distinguishes it from all other Fugio reverses, is the prominent die break covering some 75 degrees of arc at the very bottom of the coin. This break starts at the border opposite link 6 (as designated by Spilman) and continues thru the tops of links 7 and 8 to the border opposite link 9. At least four specimens of reverse KK are presently known, all of which are combined with obverse 12. We are indebted to A. D. Hoch for taking the accompanying photograph of the piece which is in the writer's collection.

Edward R. Barnsley



FUGIO (12)-KK

THE FRENCH COLONIES SOUS of 1767

by Robert A. Vlack

Part I

On the way back from the MANA Convention in Virginia, Ned Barnsley, Al Hoch, and I thought of trying something different for the Newsletter. Rather than wait for months or even years for some finished works to come out on a particular series, a running research article would be introduced on a particular subject thus enabling everyone to participate over the years in its' development. Later, when no new information can be found regarding new varieties, the series would be finished by adding and compiling all the remaining data such as the historical background, rarities, etc. into a finished works and published as such. Comments on this type of approach would certainly be welcome.

Many already know that for some time now I have started on the French Colonies Series of 1767, both with and without the RF Counterstamp. I intend to introduce these varieties, first without the counterstamps so as not to confuse the series, and then offer the interlocking of counterstamps as they have appeared thus far. To date, there are nine recorded varieties, all with a multitude of different counterstamps, but I feel that the surface has been only scratched. Each Newsletter will carry with it either one or two new varieties with full descriptions, and later, when all the varieties have been covered, a complete description of the counterstamps and on what coins they have been struck upon.

As I have mentioned, this is the beginning of this series, so there will be no mention of rarities, just a description of a coin designated with an obverse and reverse letter. Later, the designation will be followed by a letter in parenthesis for the identification of the counterstamp, for example, 1-A (B). This will be the 1-A variety with a "B" counterstamp. I hope this will not tend to confuse the series, but rather strengthen it, I, like many others, dislike collecting the Colonials by types, when with some effort they can be recorded and collected by varieties. There is so much of this caliber of research going on over the past few years that it won't be long before the Colonials will become known and recognized in its own endeavor.

I hope that this will encourage other serious collectors to find some special field of the Colonials to write on, for there is still so much that is unknown in a field that should have been covered over and over again. So much for the opinion and hope, now down to the first of the varieties, unsurprisingly the 1-A.



THE FRENCH COLONIES SOUS of 1767

- Obverse 1 -** In COLONIES, C leans slightly right, L is slightly high and closer to 1st O, S leans right. In FRANCOISES, R is high and leans strongly right, I is high and leans left, last S leans right. In L. XV, L is higher than XV and leans strongly left. The apex of the V is below the base of the X. On all specimens seen, the A's appear filled in, and the C's have a break that appears to close the loop.
- Reverse A -** In SIT, I leans strongly left with the T low. NOMEN is about normal. The D in DOMINI leans right, 1st I is parallel with M and touches the M at the base. The N and 2nd I are also parallel. In BENEDICTUM, N and M leans right, with the I slightly closer to D. Top of crown is closer to S. Leaf ends under right center of the I. A break connects the I and B at the bottom, with a smaller period-like break under the B. These breaks have been observed on all varieties seen thus far deteriorating more on some specimens than others.



1-A